

This is me a year ago with running mates Monica Tan and Khalid Mohammad. I am at freezing Cheltenham station, asking people to give me a go as their Greens C Ward councillor.



And you did!

It's been one (awesome) year since I was elected! ☐

I promised to bring 'new ideas & old-fashioned values' to Council. And since one of my old-fashioned values is accountability, here's a warts-and-all look at what Council's been doing.

Great decisions ☐

Climate

Look out for work in this area at the October meeting: it's a turbo-charged review of how we can adapt to climate change locally, deal with urban heat, protect biodiversity, prepare for more bushfires and create long-term plans for urban forests and save water. Extremely exciting stuff.

Feral cats

I deeply resent other people's pets killing our native wildlife so I support Council trapping feral cats, plus an education program so owners keep their beautiful moggies where they belong: inside.

Design excellence

My recommendation that Council extend the 'design excellence' rules to all developments over two storeys has led to a review of our DCP to see if we can get better-looking apartment blocks with more vegetation. Does it mean the end of ugly apartment blocks and tree felling? No. But it will mean some big improvements.

Support for walking & cycling

More footpaths, the Pennant Hills to Epping bike route and plans for routes between suburbs are now high on the agenda.

Disappointments □

Pathetic on plastic

Other councils have banned single-use plastics. Hornsby Council is still investigating and due to report before the end of the year. Yeah ... well that's another year's worth of plastic cups, bottles, cutlery and straws going to landfill. I should have pushed for an immediate ban. A big fail from me.

Protecting rural land?

Council is lobbying the state government to stop allowing seniors' developments on rural land. But two more of these development have been allowed in Dural & Glenorie so there's no certainty all our rural land won't be turned into medium-density housing. More work needed on this one.

Land grab by Parramatta

The Hornsby mayor was elected saying that he would get Hornsby council's land south of the M2 in Epping returned. He failed. Hornsby is now a lot worse off financially. Most residents have moved on. I have done the same. It has been an embarrassment watching two Liberal-dominated councils trade insults and spend a small fortune in legal fees and staff time on a problem created by a Liberal state government. Politics at its worst.

So how have I done as your C Ward councillor? □

You'll make your own judgement. This is mine.

Hits □

✓ Climate, money for bushland protection, stopping overdevelopment and planting trees are now priorities. Having two Greens on Council has helped shift the focus from selling off assets to making sure our Bushland Shire stays a good place to live for everyone.

✓ I've challenged the status quo on childcare businesses that are currently allowed in low-density residential areas. I've put the state government on notice that residents want a say in where these businesses are located.

✓ I have pushed for tough emission targets, ambitious waste reduction targets, a sustainable procurement program, solar on every new roof, more support for small businesses, the right of residents to have a say on where seniors' living developments are located and more money for libraries. All are works in progress. All will continue to get a lot of love and attention from me!

Misses

✘ I missed two important chances to speak in public meetings on libraries and on climate change and the drought. I am working on being as sharp at meeting procedure as I am at telling a weed from a native plant in the bush ;)

✘ I haven't yet met with several important local sports groups, men's sheds and multicultural organisations. High on the agenda for the next few months.

✘ I haven't found out what the government plans are for Cherrybrook station. They're under serious state government wraps - but I think I've got a way of finding out. More soon ... with some luck and hard work

This is what I put on my election leaflet a year ago. I wanted Council to:

- invest in better facilities for our children
- listen to rate-payers, not developers
- get smarter about plastic and waste
- provide better services for commuters
- stop destructive overdevelopment in South Dural
- Promote 'buy local'
- support businesses and communities in getting energy independence
- preserve our parks and bushland

* Now* I want you to tell me what should be on the agenda for 2019-2020. Write and let me know what you want to see action on.

Thank you for every email, phone call, text, post and conversation we've had so far. Keep them coming! It's been fabulous working with you - because a neighbourhood this good is worth fighting for

Warmest wishes,
Emma (proudest C Ward Hornsby councillor ever!)



PS - join me, Monica & Greens' leader Richard Di Natale in Chatswood on Wednesday: it's a free event and everyone is welcome.

WHERE: The Civic Pavilion at the Concourse: 409 Victoria Ave Chatswood

WHEN: 6.30pm Wednesday 3 October

REGISTER: <https://my.greens.org.au/civicrm/event/register?id=4470&reset=1> : see you there!